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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/ES-CR, S/ES-O AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CORRECTED COPY: POPE CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT

REF: STATE 118192

CORRECTED COPY: ADDED CAPTIONS (AS PER REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS) AND
CORRECTED TITLES

¶1. The Holy See Secretary of State, His Eminence Tarcisio
Cardinal Bertone, requested the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See to
transmit the following message from Pope Benedict XVI to
President-elect Obama.

Begin text:

The Honorable Barack Obama

President-elect of the United States of America

On the historic occasion of your election as President of the
United States of America, I send warm greetings and cordial best
wishes to you, your wife and your family. I pray that Almighty
God will assist you in your high responsibilities in the service
of the nation and within the international community. May the
Lord's abundant blessings sustain you and the beloved American
people as you strive, together will all men and women of good
will, to build a world of peace, solidarity and justice.

Benedictus PP.XVI

End text.

¶2. Cardinal Bertone also expressed his own heartfelt
congratulations and prayers as President-elect Obama prepares to
serve the people of the United States. Embassy Vatican received
Cardinal Bertone's request November 5.

GLENDON